

# Blend It: Engaging students in the AP (or any!) classroom



**VIRTUAL SCHOOL SYMPOSIUM 2011**

**AMY MICHALOWSKI  
DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND  
INSTRUCTION  
VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL**

# Today's agenda (where we're headed)



Image credit: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/sammy0716/3005591006/>

- Brief introduction
- The many flavors of blended learning
- Elements of successful AP courses
- Show and tell
- Getting you there!

# What is Blended Learning?



Image used under a [Creative Commons license](#)

# Definitions



- There are many different interpretations
- Factors that contribute to differing definitions include
  - Time
  - Model(s)
  - Delivery
  - Rationale
  - Technology
- Program level versus classroom level implementation

# Context is Key



- Focus of many definitions is often on “how” rather than “why”
- Rationales vary:
  - Time and Money
  - Student Engagement
  - Personalized Instruction
  - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills
  - Transformative Practice
- Primary goal: create more effective, engaging, and flexible ways for students to learn and gain mastery

# VHS AP courses



- 11-12 enrollment; 20 course titles, 65 sections, 1362 enrollments (as-of November 10<sup>th</sup>)
- High AP test take rate (near 80%), with pass rates (3-5 and 4-5) that exceed national averages.
- Elements leading to student success:
  - Collaborative
  - Engaging, creative course activities
  - Varied assessments
  - Community of educators

# Time to tour!



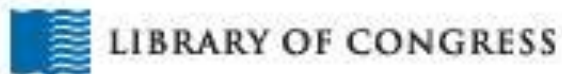
- Examples from VHS courses illustrate types of activities that can be created.
- Focus will be on sharing OER resources
- Three “categories” for our discussion
  - High quality content or course resources
  - Create producers of knowledge
  - Increase interaction and collaboration



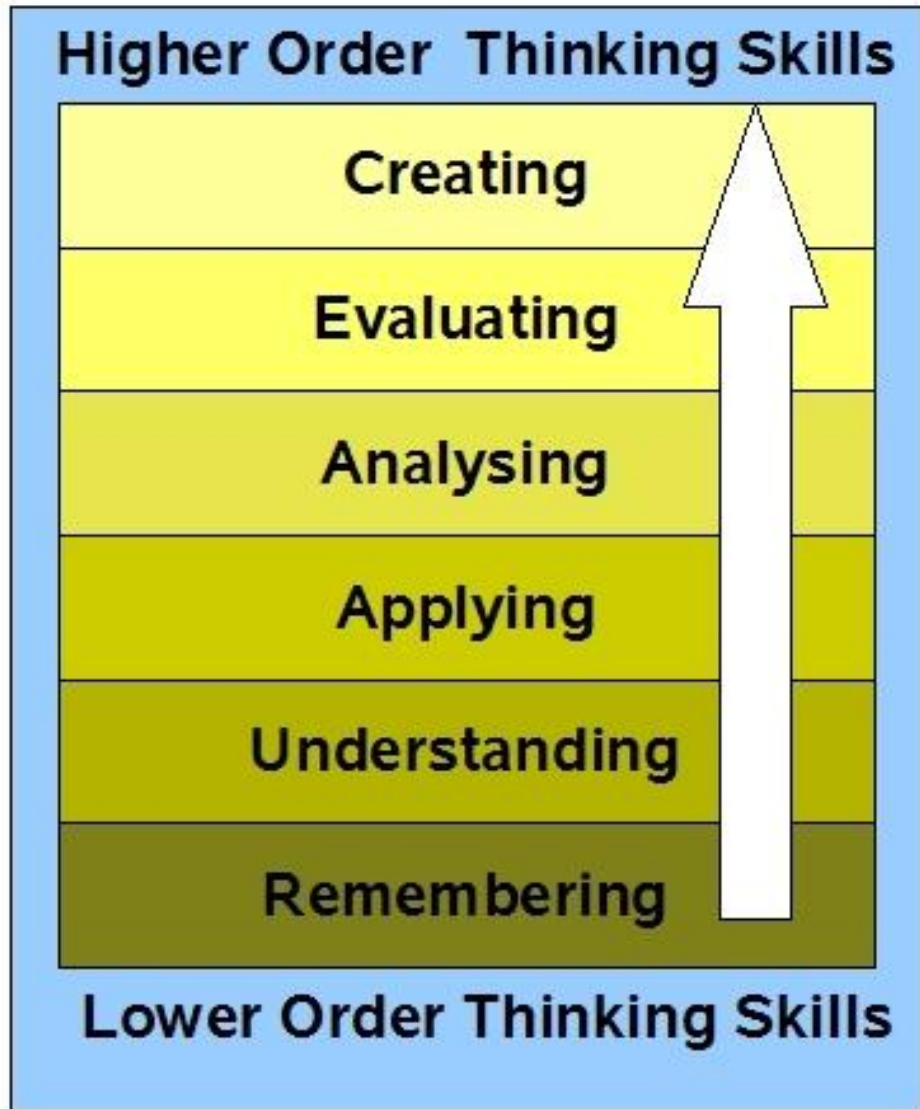
## Content/ Resources

- Increased engagement and student interest
- Fosters independence and student responsibility for learning
- Types of resources
  - High quality digital textbooks – more than just flat PDFs of physical textbooks
  - Interactive multimedia content
  - Assessment tools for formative assessment
  - Teacher-created materials





# Individual producers of knowledge



Bloom's Revised Taxonomy

<http://edorigami.wikispaces.com/Bloom%27s+Digital+Taxonomy>

blogging

How to build a Blog! 

**Blogging**



# HOPPHOTO

about

08  
Nov  
10

## light leak leads to loss

By lilacarly [Leave a Comment](#)

[Categories](#): Uncategorized



Admittedly, I had high hopes for this roll of film. It was the first roll of the series and I felt pretty confident using the Holga.

But when I opened the back of the camera, the film wasn't wound tight enough on the reel. Light attacked my film and my confidence.

For the next roll, I added more resistance to the reel, hoping that would wind it tighter. But still, light leaked in. After two rolls of ruined

search

[search](#) [blog](#) [archi](#)

GO

november 2010

months

| M     | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1     | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8     | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15    | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22    | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29    | 30 |    |    |    |    |    |
| « Oct |    |    |    |    |    |    |

November 2010  
October 2010  
May 2010  
April 2010  
February 2010  
December 2009  
November 2009  
October 2009  
September 2009

blogroll

[WordPress.com](#) [WordPress.org](#)

recent entries

light leak leads to loss  
Struggles in Photography



hhspress is a student run news site produced  
by Hopkinton High School students (Hopkinton, MA)

# HHS PRESS.ORG | Hopkinton HS Student News

HOME ABOUT CONTACT STAFF SPORTS LATEST STUDENT LIFE LOCAL | NATION | WORLD THE SATELLITE

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 10TH 2010

Search

## Latest



### Outstanding Girls Cross »

By Kellie Lodge The 2010 girls cross country team started off on a positive foot with its two new members, freshmen Emily [...]

- Cara Filler's "The Power of..."
- HHS Students Enjoying New Mandarin...
- Parking: is it really an issue?
- Coach Girard's tenure begins with...
- HHS Press: Past, Present, and Now...



**Younger Players Step Up  
During Tough Loss Against  
Medway**

## Sports



### October 27th cross country »

The starting official prepares to send off the Hopkinton and Westwood runners at the cross country race [...]



### Younger Players Step Up »

Junior Alex Hulme hands the ball off to Junior Barrett Hanlon at the away game against Medway on Friday, [...]



### Outstanding Girls Cross »

By Kellie Lodge The 2010 girls cross country team started off on a positive foot with its two new [...]

## Gliding Joint

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [History](#)

Edited by [redacted] on 10/9/2011 at 7:06 PM, EDT.

Tags: None ([Edit](#))

Gliding Joint



## Pivot Joint

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#)

Posted by [redacted] on 10/10/2011 at 7:05 PM, EDT.

Tags: None ([Edit](#))



I used an old

The gliding joint  
linear movement  
backbone.

### Pivot Joint

The Pivot joint is a type of uniaxial joint which means it permits its movement in one axis. I made the joint out of a toilet paper roll, my pen, a cotton swab that was in my room, and a broken balloon that I blew up. The cylindrical surface of one bone rotates within a ring formed of bone and fibrous tissue of a ligament. Movement at such a joint is limited to rotation around a central axis. The head of the radius rotates in a ring formed by the radial notch of the ulna and a ligament (annular ligament), is of this type. A pivot joint functions in the neck as the head turns from side to side. In this case, the ring formed by a ligament (transverse ligament) and the anterior arch of the atlas rotates around the dens of the axis.

## 10 Questions


[Edit](#) | [Delete](#)

Posted by  on 10/18/2010 at 8:31 AM, EDT.  
Tags: None [\(Edit\)](#)



### Answers

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#)

Made by  on 10/18/2010 at 11:20 PM, EDT.

#### 1. What is the difference between the genome of a prokaryotic cell and the genome of a eukaryotic cell?

A prokaryotic cell's genome is usually single long DNA molecule, while eukaryotic genomes are usually made of a number of DNA molecules. Eukaryotic cell genomes are also of enormous length; they are much longer than the genomes of prokaryotic cells.


#### 2. How do chromosomes, chromatin, centromere, and chromatin relate?

Each of these are all involved in DNA, and more specifically the packaging of DNA within cells. Each of these either make up, or are made of, DNA molecules.

#### 3. How do mitosis and cytokinesis differ?

Mitosis and cytokinesis are two closely related processes, and take place one after another. Mitosis, however, is the division of the nucleus, while cytokinesis is the division of the cytoplasm.



Made by  on 10/20/2010 at 1:44 AM, EDT.

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#)

All correct, you just needed a little more elaboration in some of them.

For #2, a little more detail about how they relate might be that 2 chromatids form a chromosome, attached most closely at the centromere.

For #3 a little more detail too. For example, in meiosis 1 the cell splits into 2 and in meiosis 2 the cell splits into 4...etc.

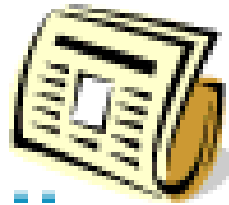
Nice detail in 5 and 8

[Reply](#)

#### 6. What's the difference between a male and female gamete?

In humans, a male gamete is known as a sperm, while a female gamete is known as an egg. Eggs develop from germ cells in the ovaries of females, while sperm develops from germ cells in the testes of males. While men continue to produce endless amounts of sperm from the time that they hit puberty to their death, women are born with a set amount of eggs. These eggs become fully developed once a girl goes through puberty, and it is only then that it is possible for an egg to be fertilized by a sperm.

Bloglines



\*Pageflakes

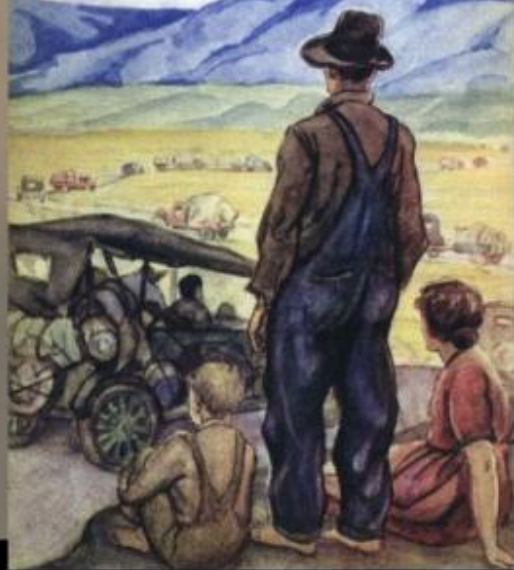


netvibes



# GRAPES of WRATH

John Steinbeck



## Symbolism

Rose of Sharon's Pregnancy gives hope of new beginnings. When the baby is stillborn, this hope fades. After the family still tries to move forward.

The Death of the Joads' Dog also foreshadows the long road ahead of the family and the many tragedies that will occur.



## Interesting Facts

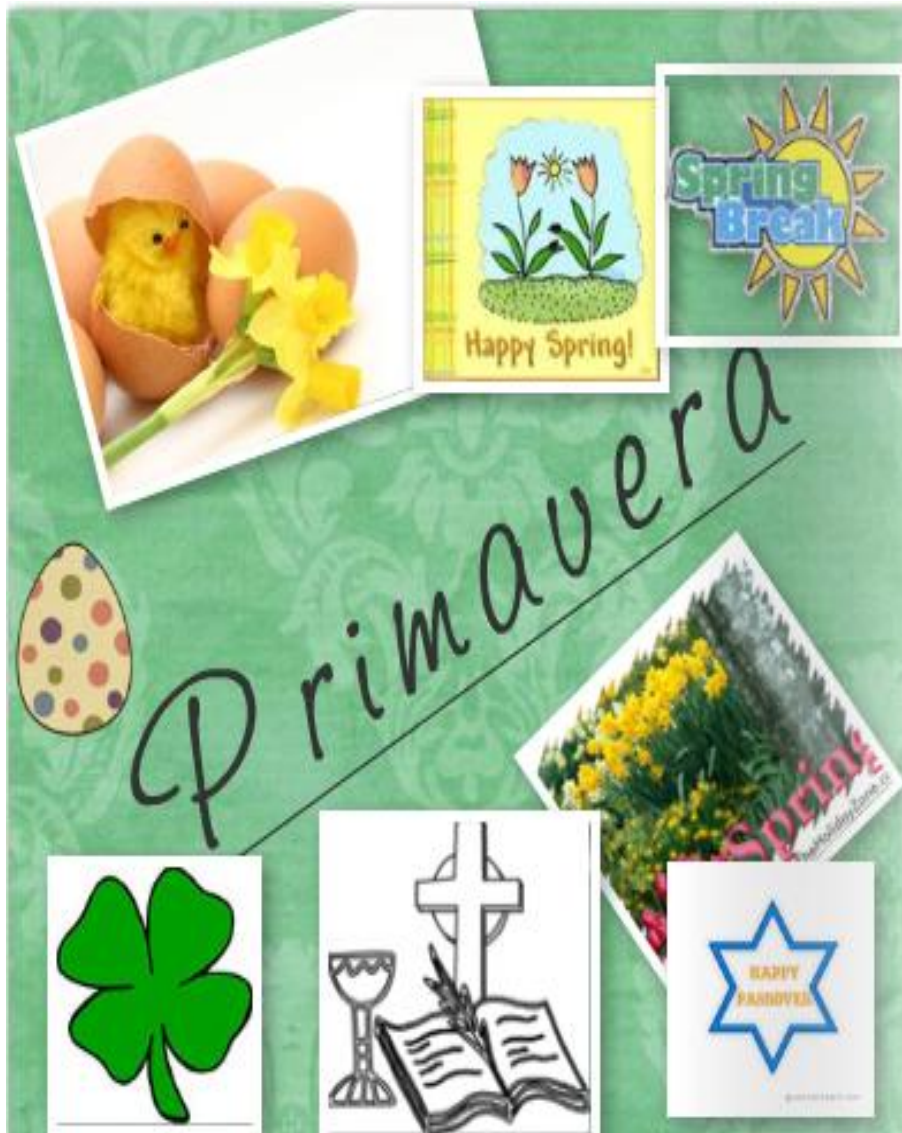
Theater Company

- ~ John Steinbeck was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1962.
- ~ It was reportedly banned in the Soviet Union by Stalin because it showed that even the most destitute

Interview with  
Steinbeck







# Primavera



La primavera empieza en  
 Marzo 21 y termina mayo  
 21. En la primavera llueve  
 mucho y las plantas empieza  
 crecer. En la primavera yo voy  
 al parque con mis amigos.

Sample Mixbook from Spanish I Class



netvibes

# Student interaction and collaboration



**The Gong Project**  
*A Voice for the Web World - Free!*





Edited by [redacted] on 11/24/2010 at 2:28 PM, EST.

Tags: None ([Edit](#))

Categories: None ([Edit](#))

## Week 4 - The Reformation

[Edit](#) | [History](#) | [Lock](#) | [Delete](#)

Edited by [redacted] on 10/5/2010 at 8:40 AM, EDT.

Tags: None ([Edit](#))

Categories: None ([Edit](#))



Week 4 Identifications

|                            |                                  |                                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Act of Supremacy           | Anabaptists                      | Catholic Reformation                 |
| Charles V                  | Christian humanism               | Constantinople and 1453              |
| Council of Trent           | Edward VI and "Bloody Mary"      | Erasmus's <i>The Praise of Folly</i> |
| Francis Xavier             | Henry IV and the Edict of Nantes | Henry VIII                           |
| Huguenots                  | Ignatius Loyola                  | indulgences                          |
| Jesuits                    | Johann Tetzel                    | John Calvin                          |
| John Wycliffe and John Hus | Leo X                            | Marburg Colloquy                     |
| Martin Luther              | Peace of Augsburg                | Philip II                            |
| pluralism and absenteeism  | Pope Clement VII                 | Pope Paul III                        |
| Puritans                   | Reformation                      | Saint Bartholomew's Day Massacre     |

## AP Euro Court Home Page

Edited by Steven Maher on 10/13/2010 at 9:50 AM, EDT.

Tags: None (Edit)

[Edit](#) | [History](#) | [Lock](#) | [Delete](#)

[Add New Page](#)



### Pages (Edit)

[AP Euro Court Home Page](#)  
[Maher \(Religion\) Opening State](#)  
[Sony Pictures Television, et. al](#)  
[Maher Witness #1 \(Count Tilly](#)  
[Maher Witness #2 \(Gustavus A](#)

## Sony Team Home Page

Edited by Steven Maher on 10/6/2010 at 8:35 PM, EDT.

Tags: None (Edit)

[Edit](#) | [History](#) | [Lock](#) | [Delete](#)

[Add New Page](#)



### Pages (Edit)

[Sony Team Home Page](#)  
[Team Role Assignments Page](#)  
[Witness List Page](#)  
[Cardinal Richelieu \(Possible Wit](#)  
[Albrecht von Wallenstein \(Possib](#)  
[Gustavus Adolphus \(Possible W](#)  
[Opening Statement](#)  
[Direct Testimony: Cardinal Riche](#)  
[Christian IV of Denmark \(possibl](#)  
[Direct Testimony: Albrecht von V](#)

### Tags



### Page Contributors

[Steven Maher](#)

### Latest Activity

 tagged "Hans

[Viewer Comments \(0\)](#)

## Henri Toulouse-Lautrec: Portrait of Suzanne Valadon (Hangover)

Edited by \_\_\_\_\_ on 3/21/2011 at 4:43 PM, EDT.  
Tags: None (Edit)

[Edit](#) | [History](#) | [Lock](#) | [Delete](#)

[Add New Page](#)

I attached the text here: [Formal Visual Analysis for week 24.doc](#)

If you scroll down you will find the audio track.



### Pages (Edit)

Odilon Redon-The Crying Spide  
Van Gogh's Sunflowers  
Jenna Frank: Van Gogh's "Almond Blossoms"  
Van Gogh's Bedroom in Arles (Part 1)  
Van Gogh's "The Night Cafe"  
Bouquet de Roses by Suzanne Valadon  
Paul Signac  
Renoir- Moulin Galette  
Van Gogh's "Peasant Woman Cutting a Pea Patch in the Snow"  
Maximilien Luce's A Paris Street  
Georges Seurat - Bathers at Asnières  
Paul Cezanne's Mount Saint-Victoire  
Cezanne's "Large Bathers"  
Still Life with Apples and Oranges  
Georges-Pierre Seurat: The Circus at the Moulin Rouge  
Henri Toulouse-Lautrec: Portrait of Suzanne Valadon  
Seated Dancer in Pink Tights -  
Seated Dancer in Pink Tights -  
Seated Dancer with Pink Tights  
At the Moulin Rouge, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec

### Tags

No tags

# AP English Lit – Petersburg, AK



- I use the digital technology in everything. My classes are on Moodle. (pcsdonline.org) The students submit all their essays and discussion posts on the Moodle site. Students collaborate or work on their own on questions, projects, and some writing assignments through Moodle.

Additionally, the students all have the iLife suite. They regularly make movies and podcasts and other projects that correlate in various ways to the literature we study in class.

Specific examples include

- scenes from plays or novels
- podcasts of sestinas or villanelles written about pieces of literature
- Glogsters, Animotos, Powerpoints (old school)
- raps and songs they've produced in connection to our class material
- movie trailers of hypothetical films of the books/plays/stories we've read



Additionally, I have a SmartBoard, and my students will have the SmartBoard software on their computers starting this fall, meaning that I can push out interactive lessons and they can produce their own presentations for the class on such topics as poetry analysis, essay construction, lessons with embedded movie clips, and more and more.

All of this technology is very important in our school, as we in our location have students who travel for activities and miss many school days. They take their computers and have much more access to the classroom than they did without their machines.

Susan Hardin  
AP English Literature and Composition  
Petersburg, AK



# How to get started...





## 4 C's of Blended Learning

Contemplate

Customize

Communicate

Cultivate



I cannot  
teach  
anybody  
anything, I  
can only  
make them  
think

*-Socrates*

Photo credit: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/langwitches/3557894144/>

# Contemplate



Photo credit: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/wonderlane/37531816/>

# Think about Design not Technology



Plan ahead and start early



Focus on course goals & learning objectives



Design should lead your use of technology, not the other way around

# Customize



- Photo credit: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/abbot45/2539810093/sizes/z/in/photostream/>

## Diversify your approach

- Incorporate a variety of media and voices into your approach (e.g., text, video, podcasts, websites, discussion forums, wikis/blogs, journals, slideshows, etc.)

## Move beyond the textbook

- Use Open Educational Resources to integrate quality content, create engaging learning experiences, and take students beyond the classroom

## Realign assessment

- Rethink how to measure student progress and mastery in a blended environment



# Communicate



- Photo credit: [http://www.flickr.com/photos/library\\_of\\_virginia/2898490491/sizes/z/in/photostream](http://www.flickr.com/photos/library_of_virginia/2898490491/sizes/z/in/photostream)



Establish clear expectations, directions, and lines of communication

Use multiple modes and voices (syllabus, announcements, email, blog, podcasts, etc. )

## Communicate

Provide timely feedback as often as possible to your students

Be present online: students need to know you are there

# Cultivate





## Collaboration & community for your students



## Professional community of peers for yourself



## Knowledge: seek opportunities to build upon your own content knowledge and technical competencies

# Top OER by Subject



- **Fine Arts:** <http://www.diigo.com/list/cdworrell/fine-arts-oer>
- **Foreign Languages:** <http://www.diigo.com/list/cdworrell/foreign-language-oer>
- **Language Arts:** <http://www.diigo.com/list/cdworrell/language-arts-oer>
- **Math:** <http://www.diigo.com/list/cdworrell/math-oer>
- **Science:** <http://www.diigo.com/list/cdworrell/science-oer>
- **Social Studies/History:** <http://www.diigo.com/list/cdworrell/social-studies-oer>



Thank you for  
your time!

Amy Michalowski

VHS

amichalowski  
@govhs.org

